NATURAL NEWS

The Field Museum
Exploring
The Earth And Its
People

Weekly Staff Newsletter
April Fools' Day, 1999

A message from the President

As everyone knows, major new exhibits would not be possible without financial support and the careful work of our colleagues in Institutional Advancement. Following our recent opening, I would like to outline the role that the Institutional Advancement team played in the success of *Underground Adventure*.

The story begins three years ago with a successful proposal to the National Science Foundation for $1.6 million, of which about $1.3 million was designated for exhibit development. **Francie Muraskie-Stotz** and others drafted this application, a document which Institutional Advancement used as the basis for many proposals to donors.

Early investors included a few individuals at lower levels and the Chicago Board of Trade at $100,000. Following a visit to Omaha with **Willard White** and **Laura Gates**, I was pleased to announce a commitment of $2 million from The ConAgra Foundation, at the time the largest corporate gift in our history! Until Monsanto became our Lead Sponsor following another visit by Willard White, Laura Gates and me.

Monsanto claimed the top spot with a grant of $3 million for *Underground Adventure* and an additional $1 million for a ten-year middle school environmental science fair program, which will be launched this spring. Willard, **Madelyn Thompson** and **Melissa Hilton** masterfully handled a large contingent of Monsanto representatives over many months in anticipation of last week's opening. **Charles Katzenmeyer** coordinated the gala donor tribute and exhibit preview on March 23, co-sponsored with Monsanto.

With nearly $7 million in commitments, the Institutional Advancement team began pursuing industry sponsors and secured major commitments from Abbott Laboratories, whose CEO is our long-time Trustee **Miles White** and The ServiceMaster Company, whose Chairman **Carlos Cantu** is also a Trustee. The latter was a product of a conversation begun by **Sandy Boyd**, Francie and Willard.

An additional $1 million was pledged by The Fort James Foundation by its chairman, our new Trustee, **Miles Marsh**. The Prince Charitable Trusts chose the Museum over many other worthy applicants in making a stretch grant of $400,000 last summer. Two weeks ago and due to the efforts of Charles Katzenmeyer, The Pfizer Foundation, Inc. committed an additional $500,000. And just before we opened, Marion S. Searle increased her support to $100,000 in response to an appeal from **Susan VandenBosch**.

Each of these major grants, and numerous others that did not materialize, required thoughtful, patient effort and often as much as two years of cultivation. Throughout the process, the dedicated team at Institutional Advancement – which also included **Mark Schmeltzer, Janet Young, Stacy Rhoads** and **Paul Baker** – has done yeoman duty in building relationships with these donors and I applaud their hard work and professionalism.

John McCarter

FIELD NOTES

Week of April 5

Public Events/Special Events

An Evening with Dr. Sylvia Earle
- Tuesday 6:30 p.m., MWH

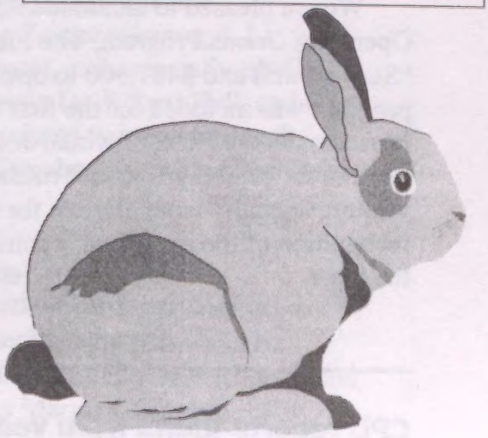
Staff/Volunteer Events

NEW!! Dodge Ball
- Monday 5 p.m., Grainger Hall of Gems

Tuesday Noon Seminar Series
- Zoology Classroom

Aerobics Class
- Tuesday & Thursday 5 p.m. Ground Floor, East Stairwell

DON'T MISS IT!!
New Staff and Volunteer Spin-The-Bottle Mixer
- Friday 5 p.m., Maori House



Where do Easter eggs come from?? Special Zoology/Education program for Easter!

See insert page 1

The Art of the Dung Beetle

Plans are underway to develop a major blockbuster exhibition that will both educate visitors and assist with the lake shore rebuilding project. Tentatively titled *The Art of the Dung Beetle*, the new exhibit will go up sometime in 2001.

Director of exhibit development **Rich Faron** described the new exhibit at a recent press briefing: "This is the next logical step for us as we continually raise the bar in exhibit development. What we're doing is celebrating this creature – one at the core of our collections and mission. We'll borrow from the cutting edge exhibitry of *Undergound Adventure*. At the same time, we'll be providing more landfill to help the Army Corps of Engineers rebuild the retaining wall along the lake shore."

'Massive balls of dung'
-R. Faron

The new exhibit will shrink the visitors down to the size of a dung beetle and send them on their way pushing into Burnham harbor.

Faron added, "Visitors will come away from this exhibit understanding why the Dung Beetle was so appreciated in ancient cultures. This is experiential learning at its best!"

Ceiga, Stevenson speak at museum conferences

On March 22, **Barbara Ceiga** attended the Ohio Museums Association annual meeting in Columbus, Ohio. She gave a presentation on how The Field Museum develops large-scale exhibits, using both *Underground Adventure* and *Sue 2000* as case studies.

Peter Stevenson (Exhibits) has been invited to present a paper at the Visitor Studies Association's 1999 Annual Conference, to be held August 3-7 in Chicago. Entitled "Transacting the Gallery: An Interdisciplinary Approach to Understanding Visitor Behavior," the paper will introduce the theory of transactionalism and suggest its practical application in exhibit development and visitor studies.

Transactionalism is a model for understanding human behavior which comes out of environmental psychology, perception theory, and behavior studies. Transactionalism provides a way of thinking about human behavior which has been successfully applied to many fields of study. In art history, cultural studies, literature studies, architecture, and urban studies, transactionalism has opened new doors to understanding how people build fields of meaning through their encounter with physical spaces. Peter will provide an overview of the positive impact this model has had and show how exhibit development and visitor studies could benefit as well.

Submitted by **Rich Faron**

Museum receives grants for "Sue" and educational programs

We are pleased to announce that under the newly established Illinois Public Museum Capital and Operating Grants Program, The Field Museum will receive $850,000 to support the development of the "Sue" exhibit and $487,500 in operating funds to support the Museum's educational activities. This grant program was included for the first time in the FY99 budget by Governor Edgar at the request of the Museums in the Park, of which **John McCarter** is currently President. Museums on public lands are eligible for capital grants and museums on public lands or museums which receive visitorship of 150,000 or more annually were eligible for the operating grants. We are pleased to have State support in recognition of the museums' contributions to both the educational resources and the tourist economy of the State.

Submitted by **Fay Levin**

CPD reports thefts from vehicles in Museum Campus area

The Chicago Police Department has reported a number of thefts from vehicles in the area surrounding the Museum Campus. (No reports so far have been from cars in the Adler or Soldier Field lots.) This is just a reminder to make sure to lock your car when you park it in the Campus lots and make sure all valuables (cell phones, radar detectors etc.) are kept out of sight.

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

Rieppel's Believe It or Not!

Bizarre lizard-like creatures, and snakes with legs

Olivier Rieppel (Geology) just returned from a study trip to the Natural History Museum in London and the Hebrew University in Jerusalem. The main goal of this trip was to continue work on cyamodontoid placodonts, turtle-like sauropterygian marine reptiles from the Middle and Upper Triassic (250 to 210 million years) that fed on hard-shelled prey which they crushed between their huge tooth plates. But among the Hebrew University's collection of fossil reptiles from the Muschelkalk (235 million years) of Makhtesh Ramon, Negev, Olivier also found the remains of two new species of Tanystropheus, strange-looking long-necked lizard-like creatures that lives in the warm-water shallow sea. These findings add to the reconstruction of evolutionary patterns in Triassic marine basins along the northern shelf of Gondwana, the southern supercontinent. And finally, Olivier took the opportunity to further study the fossil snakes with limbs rom the Lower Cretaceous (95 million years) of Ein Jabrud.

Ornithologically correct Easter

The Education department and the Division of Birds have teamed up to present an exciting public event for the Easter celebration.

Collections manager **Dave Willard** will take visitors behind the scenes in the egg collection for an explanation of where eggs actually come from.

"So many visitors don't seem to realize that the Easter Bunny simply *delivers* eggs in a basket," explained manager of family and youth programs **Joe Byrnes**. "They just don't get it that a bird had to lay the egg first."

After touring the collections, each participant will select an egg from the collection to decorate and hide in the public museum for visitors to find during the major, museum-wide Easter Egg Hunt and Public Festival on Sunday, April 4.

Birds division staff are quite pleased with this innovative program which will brighten up the 105-year-old collection and contribute to both cultural and biological understanding.

Field Museum and UIC host reception for archaeologists

The Departments of Anthropology at The Field Museum and the University of Illinois at Chicago hosted a reception Thursday, March 25, 1999, for more than 1,000 archaeologists attending the Society for American Archaeology (SAA) meetings at the Sheraton Hotel, March 25 - 29. Paul S. Martin Project team members **Stephen E. Nash, Tamatha Smith,** and **Christine Taylor**, led by **Jonathan Haas**, planned the reception with Trudy Berry and Donna Kniaz of UIC. The party came off without a hitch, and The Museum looked great! For their help in making the event a success, special thanks go to our esteemed CEO **John McCarter, Winifred Creamer, Alaka Wali,** and **Sheryl Heidenreich** (Anthropology), **Peter Crane** and **Mark Alvey** (Academic Affairs), **Elaine Zeiger** (Geology), **Lisa Miller** (Special Events), **Julie Lockhart** and **Christine Fiene** (Museum Store), and especially **Sheila Wheatley** (Anthropology). Also deserving of thanks are Dr. Lawrence Keeley, Dr. Robert Hall, and Dr. James Philips of the University of Illinois at Chicago. And extra-special thanks to volunteers **Randi Wolf, Marisa Fontana, Dan Melone, Christine Derkacy,** and **Brendan Steadman** and his father, who manned the coat check. A splendid time was had by all!

Haas, Nash, and Smith participate in archaeology symposium

Anthropologists **Dr. Jonathan Haas, Dr. Stephen E. Nash,** and **Tamatha Smith** participated in a symposium organized by Nash at the Society for American Archaeology meetings here in Chicago Thursday, March 25. Nash and Haas presented a progress report on the Paul S. Martin Project; Smith and Nash presented results of their analysis of groundstone artifacts found in the Martin Collection. Paul Martin enjoyed a 43-year career as Curator in the Department of Anthropology, and symposium participants gathered to celebrate his legacy and collections.

COMPUTING DEPARTMENT UPDATES

Network update

Our building network and connection to the Internet change on a regular basis. The following points may be of interest.

- **New fiber-optic backbone installed.** New network equipment went online in early March, increasing our effective network capacity 20-50 fold. The installation was flawless, with nearly zero downtime. We now have advanced capabilities to isolate network problems so that a problem on one network segment will have no effect on the rest of the building service.
- **Internet service problems resolved.** After more than three weeks of poor Internet connection service, on March 20 our vendor made modifications to their nationwide backbone which fixed the slow connections we were experiencing.

IMPORTANT: Virus information

As the national press (CNN, USA Today, Wall Street Journal, NBC, etc) has reported all week, the "Melissa" virus is spreading rapidly and some copies have been received here at The Field. This message arrives with the note: **Important Message From <name>,** where the name is probably someone you know or have received e-mail from before. There will be an attachment called "list.doc" or something similar. You may open the email message, but **do not** open the attachment.

We use a different email system than the one that spreads this virus (Microsoft Outlook), so we are not especially at risk. However, if you have any reason to believe your computer now holds this virus, please contact Computer Services at x590.

On Friday, March 26, another virus entered the building, disrupting Internet access and outside e-mail all day. This virus arrives as an attachment to an e-mail message that claims to be an official update to Microsoft Internet Explorer. The attachment may be called something similar to ie0199.exe or ie0898.exe. If you receive one, **do not** open this attachment. It is not from Microsoft. Updates to Internet browsers will never be emailed to you. If it gets installed, it begins to send out a constant stream of network messages.

If you accidentally install this virus, we will be contacting you immediately, because your computer will be disrupting the network. If you need it removed, disconnect your computer from the network and call Computer Services at x590.

As always: consider buying virus protection software and keep your virus checking system up to date!

Submitted by **Jim Koeppl**

Restructuring of Museum Affairs announced

One early result of the strategic planning process now underway is the restructuring of the division of Museum Affairs.

In a move he called a "great marriage of leadership," **John McCarter** announced that **Jim Croft** will serve as vice president of the division, with **Marilyn Martinson Croft** and the Human Resources department being shifted into that area.

Additional joint appointments to the division are **Shannon Hackett** and **John Bates, Francie Muraski-Stotz** and **Doug Stotz**, **Petra Sierwald** and **Rüdiger Bieler**, **Chuimei Ho** and **Ben Bronson**, **Margaret Thayer** and **Al Newton**, **Betty Strack** and **Greg Mueller**, **Clara** and **Bill Simpson**, **Michelle Eck** and **Randy Smith**, and **Winifred Creamer** and **Jonathan Haas**.

"Our vision is to bring together natural alliances within the museum and create an area where there is a seamless transition between work and personal life," Jim explained. "This will also mean that 24-hour, seven-day coverage will be possible in many areas of the Museum."

Marilyn added that since most employee benefits are offered to spouses as well, the promotion and growth of the new Museum Affairs division should provide dramatic cost savings and efficiencies in employee compensation planning.

HANDS ON THE FUTURE OF SCIENCE

CHICAGO NATIONAL SCIENCE OLYMPIAD, 1999

What's this? The Field Museum is co-hosting the National Science Olympiad Tournament this year, along with the University of Chicago, Adler, Shedd, and MSI? Oh boy!

You mean 108 junior high and high school student teams, all state winners, are coming to the museum **May 13 and 14th**, to register, hold their opening ceremonies, and compete in their national tournament?

Over 1700 students will be participating in various events, from straining their knowledge of reptiles, to building strange Rube Goldberg-like devices, to testing the strength of their home-constructed bridges and towers!

That's fantastic!

Good golly, how can I learn more?

Check out our Web site at http://www.nso99.uchicago.edu/, or even better...

Learn about the Science Olympiad in person!

Monday, April 12, and
Wednesday, April 14
Noon - 1pm
Zoology Classroom

(First ones there get the cookies...)

JOIN US
for the making of a Steve McCarroll AIDS quilt panel

Please join us the evening of April 14 in making a special panel in memory of Steve. We need suggestions for an overall design. We'll also need fabric, thread, scissors...everything!
We'll work in the "lunch room" near the Exhibits design loft, near **Kent Peaslee**'s office (he'll be there too). Call or e-mail **Robin Wagner**, ext. 245, or **Elaine Zeiger**, ext. 338.

Submitted by **Elaine Zeiger**

Fly Meigs Field to London!

In order to accommodate the increased traffic between The Field Museum and London, Meigs Field will begin offering direct service to London's Gatwick Airport beginning June 1.

Service will be limited to vice presidents of the museum and their families. Flights will depart Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays mid-morning, arriving in London early the following day. Return flights will arrive in the late afternoon on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays.

Live in the Northwest suburbs?

I've been in touch with an editor from the *Pioneer Press* newspapers who wants to produce feature stories on interesting jobs done by Field Museum employees and volunteers. If you live in a suburb served by the *Pioneer Press* and believe your job would make a good story, please let me know. This is a great way to raise the profile of the Museum!

They are particularly interested in talking to people who live in the northwest suburbs of Algonquin, Arlington Heights, Barrington, Barrington Hills, Buffalo Grove, Cary, Deer Park, Elk Grove Village, Fox River Grove, Hawthorn Woods, Hoffman Estates, Inverness, Kildeer, Lake Barrington, Lake in the Hills, Lake Zurich, Long Grove, North Barrington, Palatine, Rolling Meadows, Schaumburg, South Barrington, Tower Lakes, Wauconda and Wheeling.

Submitted by **Nancy O'Shea**, ext. 344

$$ FINANCE FORUM $$

- On Wednesday, we bade farewell to Financial Operations Administrator **Paula Robinson**, who is moving on in her career. We wish Paula all the best and thank her for her many years of terrific service to the Museum. Any questions which would once have been directed to Paula, such as questions about wire transfers, expense transfers, advances, etc., can now be directed to **Dana Brink** at ext. 366. Dana can also be contacted through **Kim Greene** at ext. 791.
- Thanks to everyone who attended Wednesday's question-and-answer forum with **Lisa Wodis**. We hope you found the session was as useful as we did; we will be scheduling another session for Friday, April 30, with additional sessions to follow. Watch the *Natural News* for details.

APRIL ANNIVERSARIES . . . . .

Tom Gnoske	Zoology/Mammals	10 years
Sheldon Moy	Facility Planning & Operations	5 years

. . . . . **CONGRATULATIONS!**

Museum hosts celebrations of Pawnee and Maori culture

Mary Ann Bloom (Education) is a member of the development team for Adler Planetarium's summer 2000 sky show on Pawnee Cosmology. The development team, including Pawnee tribal members from Oklahoma, met in the Pawnee Earth Lodge on March 28.

The celebration of the sixth anniversary of the re-opening of Ruatepupuke, the Maori Meeting House, was held on the evening of March 27. The development team for the Adler Planetarium Pawnee Sky Show was invited to the celebration. In a welcoming ceremony, the Maori people attending the anniversary formally welcomed the project team onto the marae. It was beautiful to hear the welcoming and accepting speeches and songs in both the Maori and Pawnee language. Ruatepupuke volunteers hosted a huge feast in honor of the anniversary. Maori and volunteers slept overnight inside Ruatepupuke.

Submitted by **Mary Ann Bloom**

Staff and volunteers invited to "An Evening with Dr. Sylvia Earle"

Please join us for a lecture with Explorer-in-Residence at *National Geographic*, Dr. Sylvia Earle, on Tuesday, April 6, at 6:30 p.m. in Montgomery Ward Hall. We want to remind staff and volunteers that tickets are free. Call ext. 854 to reserve your space; each person is entitled to two tickets. See the enclosed flyer for additional information. Called "Her Deepness," Dr. Earle will discuss "Wild Oceans: Exploring and Caring for an Ocean Planet."

Submitted by **Beth Adams**

New valet parking service announced

Starting on Thursday, April 1, museum staff can simply drive up to the south entrance, flip their keys to the first friendly Standard Parking attendant they see, and then head right into work – completely avoiding the arduous trek from the Soldier Field parking lot.

Standard Parking has initiated the service, free of charge to museum employees and volunteers, as a way to improve relations with the Museum Campus and boost their city-wide image as a first-class parking service.

Look for further service enhancements, including free car washes and 10-minute oil changes, later this spring.

Tuesday at Noon Seminar Series continues

Dr. Stephen E. Nash of the Museum's Department of Anthropology will speak to us on "Archaeological 'Excavations' of Museum Collections? Preliminary results of the Paul S. Martin Project." Paul Martin had a remarkable 43-year career at Field Museum, affecting many aspects of archaeological methods and theory. Find out how his many collections are being catalogued and learn about the web page that is being assembled to make this information more readily accessible. Also, see some of the artifacts – at the Zoology classroom on April 6.

Submitted by **Bill Burger**

Chicago Wilderness' third anniversary – a major success

ECP and Chicago Wilderness extend an *enormous* thanks to all who helped make the events last Saturday such a fabulous success. Chicago Wilderness held its second Congress in the Founders' Room, with 97 participants representing 60 member organizations. A poster session highlighted eighteen Chicago Wilderness projects. And the *It's Wild in Chicago* displays by more than 40 organizations were wonderful. A special thanks to **Sue Stott** (Education), **Kris Jadd** (Chicago Wilderness/ECP), **Adam Kashuba** (ECP), **Julie Smentek** (Chicago Wilderness) and **Troy McMillan** for the fantastic help in ensuring a brilliant event.

Submitted by **Kristofer Jadd**

Two promotions in Institutional Advancement

From Institutional Advancement, we are pleased to announce two recent promotions. Effective immediately, **Amanda Geppert** is the new Coordinator of Field Associates Programs, working with **Stephanie Powell** to support the growth of our auxiliary group for young professionals. **Janet Young** is promoted to Development Events Coordinator, with responsibility for managing the Founders' Room and overseeing the logistics for events booked through the President's office and Institutional Advancement.

The simultaneous promotions for Amanda and Janet represent the ideal in job advancement at the Museum. For once, we are able to reward performance and potential and still keep our strong team intact.

Submitted by **Willard White**

FAN MAIL

Former volunteer grateful for anthropology experience

Dear Patricia (Stratton):

When I first joined the Anthropology Department I had little knowledge of museum practices and ideologies. To me, a museum was a place where one could expect theory and practice to meet in a coherent package. In time, however, I learned that the museum was not a place for academic theory to meet practice – it was a place for theory to be tested, questioned and re-evaluated. In short the museum was much more alive than I ever imagined.

I have to admit that the staff I worked with made me feel like more than a volunteer. Barbara Burkhardt especially stands out in my memory. She was the first to show me around the museum and always welcomed me with a bright "Hi Sean!" as soon as I walked through the huge collections area door.

This spring I will be graduating, and whether or not I go directly to graduate school, I will take the memories and experiences of "museum work" with me to my future endeavors.

Thank you,
Sean Patrick Bruna

Buckley risks life rescuing kittens from blazing inferno

Every so often, something happens that has a profound effect on the way you look at life. On a Friday evening in late November last year, while driving **Greg Buckley** home after Happy Hour, I suggested we stop at a donut shop or a fast-food joint, but, Greg, hearing the call of nature, insisted that I pull into an alley. As he came back to the car, we heard a cry of anguish, and looked across the street to see flames shooting out of the windows of a house. We ran to the sidewalk as a little girl came running out of the front door crying "My kitties! Somebody please save my kitties."

At that point I witnessed an act of courage that most of us only see in the movies. Some might say it was the 14 bottles of Samuel Adams that Greg had consumed at Happy Hour. I say it was sheer guts. Whatever the force driving him, he didn't pause a beat before moving into action. He pushed the child toward me saying, "Take care of the kid," and ran into the burning building. All I could think was that I would never see him again.

But just as I was wondering how I might approach his family about getting the money he owed me, Greg emerged from the smoke-filled doorway carrying a tiny kitten. He placed it in the little girl's arms and dashed back into the building. Moments later he blasted through the smoke and flames with another kitten. Back into the inferno he plunged, four more times, until at last he had brought out five little kitties and their mother. That night I came to a new understanding of Greg Buckley – that he was an even bigger idiot than I had previously thought. "Why didn't you bring 'em all out at once?" I shouted. He gave me a grin that I will never forget, a grin that told me he just hadn't thought of it.

In my view, the fact that all the cats were already dead when Greg brought them out of the building, while unfortunate, in no way diminishes the significance of the act by a man that I am proud to call "acquaintance." That night will stay with me forever, and I hope that each of us, some day, can experience the joy that comes from helping others, with no thought of self--although hopefully with more positive results, of course. Thank you, Greg.

Submitted by **Mark Alvey**

The Field Museum Presents

Courtesy of American Program Bureau

An Evening with Dr. Sylvia Earle

Wild Oceans:

Exploring and Caring for an Ocean Planet

With only 1% of its depths explored, the ocean is the last of the Earth's great frontiers. One of its most accomplished and celebrated explorers is Sylvia Earle, Ph.D., Explorer-In-Residence, National Geographic. Called "Her Deepness" by the *New Yorker* and *New York Times*, Dr. Earle is a marine biologist, author, lecturer, scientific consultant and former Chief Scientist of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Dr. Sylvia Earle will take us diving, via video footage, into the deep seas to explore our aquatic backyards. On this expedition, you will meet animals which parallel our own terrestrial development and explore how mammals have adapted over the years to survive. New tools and technologies will be described that allow us to visit the bottom of the ocean and bring to light new information. An overview of The Sustainable Seas Expedition Program, which allows people to explore and visit marine sanctuaries, will be highlighted.

This keynote presentation is offered in conjunction with the exhibition, *Women in Science: Conversations in Conservation* (through June 27, 1999). This exhibition spotlights seven scientists at The Field Museum who are working to understand and preserve the delicate balance of life on this planet. Three areas–research, education and practice–woven together by the common goal of conservation, are explored through brief biographical sketches, photos, specimens and quotes from each woman.

Tuesday
April 6
6:30 p.m.

$15 ($12 students,
$10 Field Museum members)
For more information,
call **(312) 322-8854**

The Field Museum CHICAGO